

**H. VOSE GREENOUGH, JR  
PAPER COLLECTION**

.5 linear feet  
2 boxes

Series I: Correspondence  
Series II: Financial Records  
Series III: Technichord Records  
Series IV: Miscellaneous

Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division  
Library of Congress

Processed by Karen Fishman  
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## **H. Vose Greenough, Jr. Paper Collection**

### **Biography**

H. Vose Greenough, Jr. (1912-1976) was the founder and owner of Technichord Records, a small recording company in Brookline, Massachusetts. He grew up in Massachusetts, attended the Taft School in Watertown, Connecticut, and graduated in 1935 from Harvard University with a BS degree. During World War II he was a lieutenant commander in the Navy, and was stationed for a time at the David Taylor Model Basin in Maryland, specializing in mine warfare. In 1950 he moved to Vienna, Austria, working for the Haydn Society as chief recording engineer. After three years, he returned to the United States to teach acoustics at the Juilliard School of Music in New York City. He later returned to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to work as a consultant.

Mr. Greenough died in 1976 at the age of 64, leaving his father, Henry V. Greenough, a sister, Mrs. Barbara Bradley, and a brother, Peter Greenough.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The H. Vose Greenough, Jr. Paper Collection is a small part of a larger gift of more than 700 acetate records and tapes Mr. Greenough recorded and left to the Library of Congress upon his death. The Greenough Collection includes materials from Technichord Records, a recording company he founded located in Brookline, Massachusetts, as well as his personal papers.

Though modest in size, Technichord Records was known for recording music and performers that other companies might not recognize and for the quality of the performers and their music. For example, Technichord was the first to record E. Power Biggs, the noted American organist and broadcaster, who did much to popularize the concert organ and organ music to the American public. Other recordings include harpsichordist Claude Jean Chiasson, tenor Hughes Cuenod, soprano Isabel French, and the Harvard Glee Club and the Radcliffe Choral Society performing with harpsichordist Putnam Aldrich.

Mr. Greenough recorded radio broadcasts and local concerts as well, and his record and tape collection holds some unique recordings. These include the 1937 NBC Symphony Orchestra premier broadcast; the 1940 NBC special broadcast of the draft lottery, marking the official opening of the national lottery for military service with remarks by President Franklin D. Roosevelt; the 1940 opening ceremonies of the Berkshire Music Center (Tanglewood); the very first recording of Peter Schickele's Concerto for Horn and Hardart performed at a Juilliard School concert; a recording of the 1939 Lili Boulanger Memorial Concert which includes Psalm 119, a piece thought to be lost; and two 1969 radio broadcasts from station WHRB (Harvard Radio Broadcasting) reporting on student demonstrations at Harvard University, including the student occupation of University Hall and subsequent police confrontations.

The paper materials of the Greenough Collection date from 1937 to 1972, with the bulk of the

materials dating from 1948 to 1955. The collection contains correspondence, business and financial records, music programs, pamphlets, recording notes, and one photograph. The collection is divided into four series:

Series I: Correspondence

Series II: Financial records

Series III: Technichord Records recording activities

Series IV: Miscellaneous

### **Series Descriptions**

#### **Series I: Correspondence - (1948, 1950, 1953, 1957), 3 folders**

Series I consists of 1948 correspondence by Mr. Greenough with the law firm, Goodwin, Rosenbaum, Meacham and Bailen, personal correspondence in 1950 while he was living in Austria, and correspondence relating to job hunting efforts in 1953 and 1957.

#### **Series II: Financial Records - (1939 - 1955, 1972), 7 folders**

Series II contains financial records, including the business records of Technichord. These include contracts, billing records, invoices and other miscellaneous items. Musicians contracted with Technichord Records include harpsichordist Claude Jean Chiasson, tenor Hughes Cuenod, soprano Isabel French, organist Ernest White, violist George Humphrey, composer and cellist Jacobus C. Langendoen, and harpsichordist Putnam Aldrich. Also in this series are Mr. Greenough's personal financial records including tax returns, a property appraisal, and trust fund accounts.

#### **Series III: Technichord Records - (1937 - 1969), 8 folders**

Series III contains the recording activities of Technichord Records. This includes a notebook kept by Mr. Greenough of acetate discs recorded for Dr. Harold Spivacke of the Library of Congress. Dating from 1937, this notebook contains meticulous notations of speeds, styli, pre-amplifier settings, main amplifier settings and degrees of equalization used by Mr. Greenough to make his recordings. This series also contains worksheets of performance recordings. The programs Mr. Greenough kept of the performances he recorded are one of the highlights in this series. Spanning the years from 1938 to 1969, these programs are from the Harvard Glee Club, including one with Nadia Boulanger as guest conductor, organ recitals of E. Power Biggs at Harvard University, a 1949 dinner honoring Serge Koussevitzky, Berkshire Music Center programs, and The Juilliard School of Music programs.

#### **Series IV: Miscellaneous - (1951, 1958, n.d.), 2 folders**

Series IV contains miscellaneous items such as a 1958 catalogue from Cambridge Records, a menu from the Green Mountain Inn at Stowe, Vermont, invoices of purchases, and a copy of a technical talk written for *American Record Guide* in 1951.

## **Box Listings**

### **Series I. Correspondence**

<b><u>Box and Call Number</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>
1	1	June-October, 1948
	2	June-May, 1950
	3	1953, 1957

### **Series II. Financial Records**

1	4	Technichord Records - Balance Sheet, 1948
	5	Technichord Records - Contracts, 1939-1947
	6	Technichord Records - Invoices, 1951-1953
	7	Technichord Records - Miscellaneous
	8	Personal, 1951 - 1953
	9	Personal - Federal Tax Returns, 1953 - 1955
	10	Personal - Property Appraisal, 1972

### **Series III. Technichord Records**

1	11	Recording Notes, 1937 - 1949
	12	Recording Worksheets, 1937 - 1964; n.d.
	13	Recording Worksheets - Music Guild, 1962
	14	Programs, 1938 - 1939
	15	Programs, 1940 - 1949
2	1	Programs, 1950 - 1959
	2	Programs, 1960 - 1969; n.d.
	3	Pamphlets and Price List

### **Series IV. Miscellaneous**

2	4	Miscellaneous
	5	Unidentified photograph, 1977